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Fig. 1. Continental Currency dollar enlarged to show initials EG.

Does circumstantial evidence solve this problem?

THE CONTINENTAL DOLLAR OF 1776 MEETS ITS MAKER

By

ERIC P. NEWMAN, A.N.A. No. 4624

IT IS shocking to realize that the maker of the first coin for our independent national government has never been properly identified. To see E G FECIT (E.G. made it) prominently located on one of the principal varieties of the 1776 Continental Currency coinage has been a continual challenge to numismatists. The fact that no specific official records have ever been located with respect to the 1776 dollars has made the problem one to be solved by circumstantial evidence since action taken at some sessions of the Continental Congress and its committees in 1776 were unrecorded or lost.

The author endeavored to demonstrate conclusively in "The 1776 Continental Currency Coinage" that a special niche was provided in the denominations of the paper currency for coined silver dollars; that the minting of silver was intended to stabilize the paper currency; that there was a paper \$1 note in each issue from May 10, 1775 through the May 9, 1776, but thereafter \$1 notes were discontinued for the next six issues from July 22, 1776, through September 26, 1778; that the intention to issue a coined dollar was obviously the reason why the issues of July 22, 1776, November 2, 1776, February 26, 1777, and May 20, 1777, have denominations of \$2, \$3, \$4, \$5, \$6, \$7, \$8 and \$30 only; and that the

\$1 note, being the most convenient for circulation, would not have been eliminated unless a substitute was intended.

To corroborate further, that position attention should be called to the fact that an open letter to the Continental Congress dated March 7, 1776, was signed "Luke, the Physician" (apparently a fictitious name), and stated that "if the establishment of a mint were added where the plate with which many families abound could be fitted for ready exchange with foreigners for commodities of which the most opulent will soon be in want, I flatter myself the salutary consequences would soon become sensible to every one²." This letter was ordered published by the Committee of Inspection and Observation for the City and Liberties of Philadelphia and shows the contemporary desire, in Philadelphia, to have silver minted. A committee to study existing gold and silver coins in relation to the Spanish milled dollar was set up by the Continental Congress on April 19, 1776,³ because the paper money was payable in Spanish milled dollars. The desire to have a Federal mint for the coinage of specie did not abate and was recommended again by a Congressional Committee on February 20, 1777 so that persons could bring in specie to be coined for their own account.⁴

1. *The Coin Collector's Journal*, Vol. 19, No. 4, (July-August, 1952).

2. *American Archives*, edited by Peter Force, Fourth Series, Vol. V, (Washington, 1837-53), p. 85.

3. *Journals of the Continental Congress*, (Washington, 1906), Vol. IV, p. 293.

4. *Id.* Vol. VII, p. 136.

Eric P. Newman, St. Louis, Mo., is a frequent contributor on the subject of early American numismatics to *The Numismatist* and other publications. His studies are the results of long hours of original research and bring out hidden phases of coins and history.

The 1776 dollars coined in silver are the rarest of all of the United States silver dollars.⁵ One specimen is known of variety 1-C reading CURRENCY⁶ and two specimens are known of variety 3-D having E G FECIT.⁷ The brass pieces (1-A and 1-B) are trial pieces prepared in the development of variety 1-C and no other variety in brass exists.⁸

The pieces struck in pewter encompass all varieties except those trial pieces struck in brass. A most logical explanation was made by William H. Strobridge in 1873 as to

from impressions in tin,⁹ struck from the dies for distribution among the patriotic friends of the First Congress. **¹⁰

This would justify their issuance in pewter as a means of gaining support for the plan to have Congress and the public coöperate to convert available silver into coined silver dollars for circulation.

The "Initial" Search

When the Continental Congress authorized the issuance of fractional paper money (see illustration) by

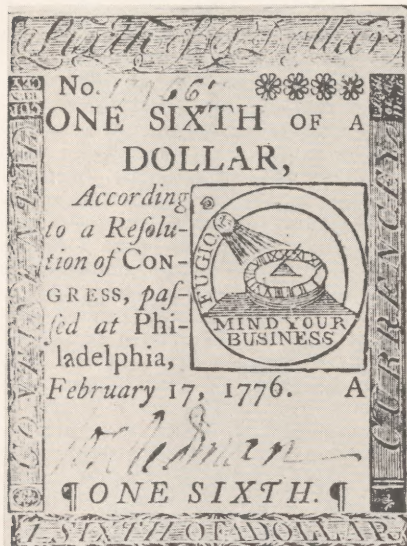


Fig. 2. February 17, 1776 Continental Currency note with border and design cuts made by an unidentified artist

the use of pewter when in the catalog of the Seavey Collection he described No. 836, being the Continental dollar (1-C) in silver, as follows:

"A Pattern from design made by Benj. Franklin, and familiar

resolution of February 17, 1776, new cuts had to be ordered.¹⁰ Michael Hillegas, Richard Bache and Stephen Paschall were put in charge of the preparation of the notes. No invoice or appropriation to anyone

5. For classification of varieties see: Eric P. Newman, "The 1776 Continental Currency Coinage," *The Coin Collector's Journal*, Vol. 19, No. 4, (July-August, 1952).

6. Johns Hopkins University Collection, ex-Garrett, Mills, Parmalee, Seavey, Adams and Clay.

7. F.C.C. Boyd Collection, ex-Stack, Green, Raymond, * * * and Granberg; Eric P. Newman Collection, ex-Johnson, Green, Mehl, Newcomer, McCoye and sold in 1886 in London. Both coins were included in the 1914 American Numismatic Society Exhibition.

8. Variety 3-D for many years was assumed to exist in brass due to an erroneous listing as 66 in the Seavey Collection catalog (1873) but the same coin was correctly described as 574 of the Parmalee Sale catalog (1890) and is identifiable as Variety 1-B.

9. Tin is loosely used in this instance as meaning pewter.

10. *Journals of the Continental Congress* (Washington, 1906). Vol. IV, pp. 157, 164.

for the preparation of the cuts has been found in the papers of the Continental Congress; perhaps the work was done as a patriotic service. Whoever prepared those cuts remains unidentified. Since the Continental Currency coinage designs are copied from the fractional paper money,¹ it is possible that the cuts for the paper money were made by the same person who cut the dies for the coinage. Thus, there is no clue from the fractional paper money as to the identity of the maker of the coinage.

There is no doubt that all of the varieties of the coinage were made by the same diemaker, and it is fortunate that the initials EG were placed on one variety (3-C).

There was no other avenue of research than to begin by looking for a qualified person with those initials. It was a pleasant surprise, therefore, to find that in 1776 there lived an American engraver by the name of Elisha Gallaudet. Merely naming him without supporting data would satisfy no one¹¹ even though no other qualified person with the initials E.G. could be found. Thus, research to prove or disprove that theory was undertaken.

Gallaudet's Cuts for Paper Currency

The selection of Elisha Gallaudet as an engraver of paper money for both the Colony of New York and the City of New York is in the official records. On January 5, 1770 an act was passed by the Colony of New York to issue £120,000 in paper money which provided for the engraving of seven denominations, 5 and 10 shillings and 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10 pounds. The portions of those denominations which were not to be typeset were to be engraved by Elisha Gallaudet in accordance with the following provision:

"And be it enacted the Authority aforesaid that Elisha Gallaudet

[sic] or such other person as the Major Part of the said first signers of said Bills of Credit shall agree with shall engrave according to the directions he shall receive from the Majority of the said first Signers twenty-eight Stamps for the sides of the said Bills, and fourteen Stamps for the Arms of the City of New York and shall deliver them to the Treasurer."¹²

This law was repealed by King George III on February 14, 1770 in accordance with his power to do so and no paper money was issued in accordance therewith. The identical law was again passed by the legislature of the Colony of New York on February 16, 1771 carrying the same authorization with respect to the engraving by Elisha Gallaudet.¹³

It will be noted from the example of the February 16, 1771 issue illustrated herein that two engraved cuts were used for the sides of each bill and one engraved cut for the arms of the City of New York. With seven denominations to be printed the number of cuts ordered to be made was sufficient for two bills of each denomination to be printed at one time. The line cuts made by Elisha Gallaudet are virtually identical and must therefore have been made from one master negative by a transfer process. Hugh Gaine added the typeset portions and struck off the bills. The New York Legislature, on March 24, 1772, passed an act authorizing payment "Unto Elisha Gallaudet for cutting the Stamps for the new Loan Office Money the sum of twenty-two Pounds one shilling."¹⁴

Because large quantities of counterfeits of almost all denominations of this issue were put into circulation due to operations of the Albany County gang, Felix Meigs and others, an act was passed on March 8, 1773 authorizing a back to be pasted on each of the 44,000 notes issued

11. *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, April 13, 1958; *The Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine*, (June, 1958), p. 1155.

12. *The Colonial Laws of New York*, (Albany, 1894), Vol. V, p. 26.

13. *Id.*, Vol. V p. 149.

14. *Id.*, Vol. V, p. 342.

15. Kenneth Scott, *Counterfeiting in Colonial New York*, American Numismatic Society Numismatic Notes and Monographs No. 127, (New York, 1953), pp. 144, 145, 152, 154, 172.

under the February 16, 1771 act and providing that no bill of credit of that issue should pass in circulation after February 1, 1774 without having a back pasted onto it. Separate plates with which to print backs of each denomination were to be melted immediately after their use.¹⁶ The record shows that Henry Dawkins received the engraving appointment rather than Gallaudet, but Hugh Gaine was nevertheless authorized to print the backs.¹⁷ Apparently, because of impracticability or because the counterfeiters of this

authorized to make the insignia or cuts was omitted in the enabling act.¹⁸ Elisha Gallaudet was not selected to make the cuts and Hugh Gaine was not chosen as printer.

The Common Council of the City of New York authorized paper money to be issued to finance the proposition of Christopher Colles to improve the New York City water supply by erecting a large steam-operated pump and enlarging the well on the property of Augustus and Frederick Van Cortlandt.¹⁹ These are known as the New York

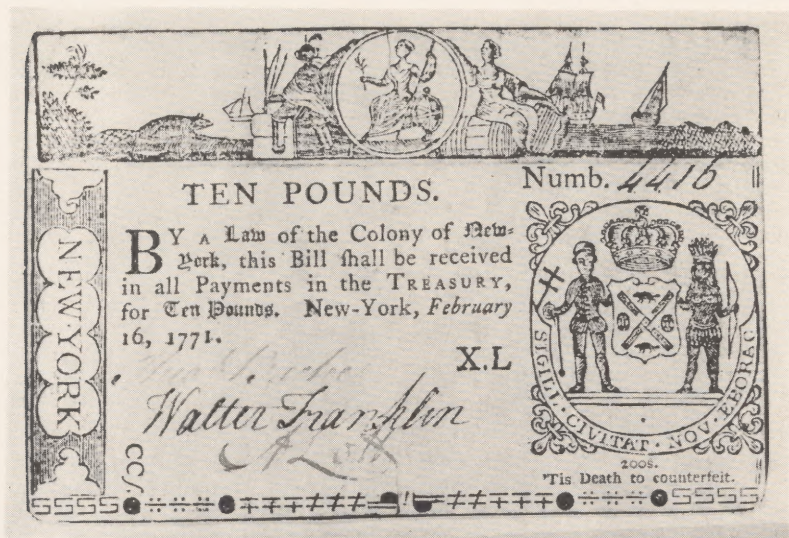


Fig. 3. Colony of New York currency of February 16, 1771, printed from cuts made by Elisha Gallaudet

issue were all rounded up the backs were never affixed to any of the denominations and must have been destroyed in their entirety as no example of them has been located.

Following the commencement of the American Revolution the New York Provincial Congress authorized a new style of paper money beginning September 2, 1775, but the name of the engraver who was

Waterworks issues. In the first series 18,500 notes dated August 25, 1774 were authorized in denominations of 6 pence, 1, 2, 4 and 8 shillings. All except the 6 pence were issued. The headpieces on the front and the illustration of the machinery on the back were engraved by Elisha Gallaudet, as indicated by invoice of August 30, 1774, in Voucher Box No. 1, Comptroller's Office:

16. *The Colonial Laws of New York*, (Albany, 1894), Vol. V, p. 510.

17. *Id.*, Vol. V, p. 686.

18. *American Archives*, edited by Peter Force (Washington, 1837-53) Fourth Series, Vol. III, pp. 567, 575.

19. *Minutes of the Common Council of the City of New York*, (New York, 1905), Vol. VIII, pp. 41, 48.



Fig. 4. City of New York waterworks note printed from cuts made by Elisha Gallaudet

"To Engraving Eight plates & Eight headpeases (pieces) for the Water Work notes and blocking the same £ 7-0-0."²⁰

Payment for the engraving was authorized by the Common Council of the City of New York as shown by the following minutes of October 10, 1774:

"N(o.) 2773. Ordered the like (i.e. that the Mayor issue his Warrant to the Treasurer of New York City to pay) to Elisha Gallaudet or Order the sum of £ 7 for engraving Eight Plates and Head Pieces for the Water Work Notes."²¹

An examination of a complete sheet of eight Waterworks notes

20. I.N.P. Stokes, *The Iconography of Manhattan Island*, Vol. 4, under date August 30, 1774.

21. *Minutes of the Common Council of the City of New York*, (New York, 1905), Vol. VIII, p. 59.

shows that four notes of the same denomination were simultaneously printed on one half and the sheet then turned and printed on the

other end. The headpieces and reverse plates are virtually identical indicating that one master plate and one master headpiece were en-



Fig. 5. Bookplate of the New-York library, 1752

graved and additional plates and headpieces were made by a transfer or duplicating process. The same headpieces and reverse plates were reused for each of the subsequent issues of the New York Waterworks paper money authorized August 2, 1775, January 5, 1776, and March 5, 1776.

Gallaudet's Other Activities

Elisha Gallaudet was born in New Rochelle, New York in 1730. His father, Pierre Elisee Gallaudet, was a French Huguenot who settled in New Rochelle in 1711 and was naturalized by the New York Colonial legislature on June 17, 1726.²² The name Elisha is merely the English translation of the French name, Elisee. Elisha Gallaudet was married twice, first in 1755 to Jean Dubois, of New Rochelle, and then to Naomi Reade (1729-1809) in New York on November 24, 1770.²³

Elisha Gallaudet engraved an elaborate bookplate for the New York Society Library in 1752 and signed it E. GALLAUDET. SCT. (See illustration). In 1754 he engraved the bookplate for John Chambers, Esquire, Chief Justice of New York, with the motto VINCIT VERITA, and signed it E. GALLAUDET SCULP.²⁴

In 1759 "Elisha Gallaudet, Engraver in Smith-Street" and his father, "Thomas Gallaudet, Perriwig-maker in Wall Street," were taking subscriptions for *Gentlemen and Ladies Military Closet Furniture* which was to consist of six en-

gravings of British and Prussian military personnel. The engraving was apparently done by Michael De Bruls, of New York, and not by Elisha Gallaudet.²⁵

In 1767 Elisha Gallaudet proved his integrity and responsibility in paper money matters when Timothy Green came to New York and requested him to make plates to counterfeit North Carolina paper money. Gallaudet not only rejected the request but had Green taken before an alderman for examination. When counterfeit money was found in Green's possession Green was arrested, tried, pilloried and given thirty-nine lashes.²⁶

Elisha Gallaudet apparently did his engraving at his home as the *New York Journal or General Advertiser* for August 1, 1771 announced:

Elisha Gallaudet,

Engraver,

is removed from the house where he lately lived in Smith-street, to the house wherein Mr. Moran lived in the Broad-Way near Bowling-Green, where he carries on his business as usual.

N. B. The house in Smith-street (which is very suitable for a Shopkeeper or Confectioner) will be let till the first of May next.

The last piece of engraving signed by Elisha Gallaudet is the portrait of the English clergyman, Reverend George Whitefield, who became very popular during his many visits to America. *The Mem-*

22. *Journal of the Legislative Council of the Colony of New York*, (Albany, 1861) p. 536.

23. Gallaudet biographical material has been assembled from the following sources:

Jean T. K. Wilson, *Account of the Gallaudet Family*, manuscript in the New York Public Library, dated 1953; Reverend Arthur Dunham Bryant, manuscript of lecture given in 1937 at Gallaudet College, Washington, D. C.; David McNeely Stauffer, *American Engravers on Copper and Steel*, (New York, 1907-1917); William Dunlap, *History of the Rise of the Arts of Design in the United States*, (Boston, 1918); Mantle Fielding, *Dictionary of American Painters, Sculptors and Engravers*, (Philadelphia, 1926); U. Thieme and F. Becker, *Allgemeines Lexikon der Bildenden K nstler*, (Leipzig 1907-34); Daniel T. Mallett, *Index of Artists, Engravers and Publishers in N.Y.C. (1633-1820)*, (New York, 1942); "One Hundred Notable New York Engravers 1683-1820," *Bulletin of the New York Public Library* (March, 1928), Vol. 32; Gottesman, *The Arts and Crafts in New York, (1726-1776)*, (New York, 1938; George C. Groce and David H. Wallace, *The New-York Historical Society's Dictionary of Artists in America, (1584-1860)*, (New Haven, 1957).

24. Charles Dexter Allen, *American Book-Plates* (New York, 1905), pp. 74, 136, 183, 255; *Ex Libris Journal*, Vol. III p. 141.

25. *New York Mercury*, March 5, 1759 and July 30, 1759.

26. Kenneth Scott, *Counterfeiting in Colonial New York*, (New York, 1953), pp. 126, 198; *New York Journal or the General Advertiser*, Aug. 27, 1767; *New York Mercury*, Aug. 31, 1767.

oirs of the Life of the Reverend George Whitefield, compiled by Rev- erend John Gillis, was first published in London in 1772 and contained



Fig. 6. Engraving (woodcut) of George Whitefield by Elisha Gallaudet

as a frontispiece the portrait of George Whitefield engraved by V. M. Picot. It was republished by Hodge and Shober in New York in 1774 for which new edition Elisha Gallaudet engraved a copy of the frontispiece signing it ELISHA GALLAUDET SCULP. N. YORK. 1774 (See illustration). Among the subscribers to the book is "Elisha Gallaudet, Engraver, New York."

No data has been found as to when during the period from October, 1774 to March, 1779 Elisha Gallaudet moved from New York to Freehold, N. J., but he certainly must have done so before August of 1776 when the British began their long occupation of New York.

Contrary to the statement made in all publications relating to engravers,²⁷ Elisha Gallaudet died in 1779 instead of 1805. The record of his death in the New Jersey Archives²⁸ indicates he died intestate in Freehold, Monmouth County, N. J., on March 29, 1779 and that his administratrix was his wife, Naomi. The inventory of his estate totaling £121-16-6 (New Jersey money of account) was made June 11, 1779 and shows that his nephew, Peter Wallace Gallaudet, of Philadelphia, "took" (was given) Elisha Gallaudet's beaver hat and bought his coat and westcoat. No other of his many blood relatives are mentioned as having bought or been given any assets. The fact that Peter Wallace Gallaudet came to Freehold from Philadelphia indicates that these men were in contact with one another during the Revolutionary War. Elisha could readily have gone to Philadelphia during the war to visit his nephew if anyone wished him to do engraving work. If Elisha had lived into the post-Revolutionary period more evidence of his life and work would undoubtedly exist.

A brief sketch of the lives of Peter Wallace Gallaudet and his famous descendants is necessary to support a specific assertion by a

living member of the family that Elisha Gallaudet made the first United States coin.

Peter Wallace Gallaudet (1756-1843) was one of the six children of Elisha's brother, Thomas Gallaudet (1724-1772). Peter started as a commission merchant in Philadelphia, but when the Revolution broke out became a colonel in the Continental army. For a short time he served as a secretary to General Washington and in Peter's obituary it was said that "he was honored with the special confidence of Washington."²⁹ Whether Peter was in any way instrumental in suggesting his uncle's name as a die sinker is not known. In later years Peter held a post in the Registry Office of the United States Treasury Department.

Peter's son, Dr. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet (1787-1851), of Hartford, Conn., is the most famous member of the family, being the founder of the first school in America for the training of the deaf, now known as the American School for the Deaf, in West Hartford, Conn. A biography of Dr. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet was written in 1888 by his son, Edward Miner Gallaudet (1837-1917), who was the family historian and the founder and first President of Gallaudet College, in Washington, D. C., which continues to train teachers to rehabilitate the deaf.

In checking with members of the Gallaudet family for possible data, Robert Monroe-Erwin, of Forest Hills, Long Island, the great-great-grandson of Dr. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, stated that he (Monroe-Erwin) visited Edward Miner Gallaudet, in Hartford, Conn., in 1911, and was specifically told that *E G FECIT* on the first United States coinage stood for "Made by Elisha Gallaudet."

Artistic Considerations

The dies for the 1776 Continental dollars are distinctly those made by

27. No printed publications listed under Note 23 have the correct date of death, indicating that each is copied from previous printed publications.

28. First Series, Vol. XXXIV, p. 204; Records of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Liber 22, p. 70.

29. *National Intelligencer*, May 19 1843.

an engraver rather than a die sinker. There is no three dimensional effect attempted. The design is primarily a group of geometric lines. The sundial is clumsily engraved into the die in poor perspective as if a plate for a flat engraving were being cut. The sundial's rod or style is unnaturally filled in with a series of parallel lines such as an engraver of cuts would do. The ground on which the sundial rests is given substance only by a series of parallel lines in the manner of an engraving. No hub or punch was used to make any part of the die except the lettering. A comparison of the 1776 coinage with the 1787 Fugio copper coinage shows the difference between dies of the same general design, the former being made by an engraver, and the latter by a die sinker. Since Elisha Gallaudet was an engraver accustomed to using parallel lines, the manner in which the dies were cut is indicative of the handiwork of such a man as he and eliminates all American or foreign craftsmen trained in die sinking.

The sundial on the February 17, 1776 fractional paper money is also in poor perspective. The numerals are erroneously spread over 360° of the dial but the position of the XII is correct in being in the same general direction as the sundial's style points. On the coin XII is on the wrong side of the dial and the portion of the arc where the numbers are omitted is where the noon shadow actually falls. The Roman numerals on the sundial of the coin should face the center of the dial as they do on the fractional paper money, but the numerals IX, XI, and XII face outward on all obverses. On Obverse Three the III is omitted and instead of an VIII and IX there is an conglomerate IIX. On Obverses Four and Five there is a VI at both the beginning and the end of the numerals which would be proper if any of the numerals were in the right position. All of the foregoing technical er-

rors, however, fall within artistic license.

As further proof of the inexperience of the person who cut the dies for the coins it is well known that the lettering beyond the outer circle on Obverse Three is too crowded; that the N in AMERICAN on Reverse A was made much smaller than the adjacent letters because there was no room for it; that the word CURRENCY on Obverse One and CURRENCY on Obverse Four are misspellings; and that the position of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, on Reverses A, B, and C, is geographically incorrect. These errors point to a man like Elisha Gallaudet who apparently had no prior experience in die sinking.

Other Candidates

The Chapman brothers appear to be responsible for indicating that EG stood for Edward Getz of Lancaster, Pa. No early mention of that name has come to the author's attention other than their use of it in the description of Lot 113 in the Mills sale of April 27, 1904; Lot 2132 of the Earle sale of June 25, 1912; Lot 327 of the Parsons sale of June 24, 1914; and Lot 124 of the Bascom and Brown sale of January 16, 1915. Albert R. Frey in 1917 included the Edward Getz assumption in *A Dictionary of Numismatic Names*.

In 1909 an article in *The Numismatist*³⁰ indicates that someone (unnamed) stated that the initials stood for Ephraim Getz. Ephraim Getz was, because of this assertion, included with doubt, in "Early American Engravers" by Richard D. Kenney in the March-June, 1951, *Coin Collectors' Journal*.

There has never been any evidence given that either an Edward Getz or Ephraim Getz existed. The suggestion of the Getz name must have come from the fact that Peter Getz, of Lancaster, Pa., cut the dies for the 1792 Washington President I half dollar. Peter Getz was the son of Johan Getz, a German

30. "First Silver Dollar for the United States," unsigned but apparently written by Edgar H. Adams as Editor of *The Numismatist*, Vol. XXII, (June, 1909), p. 177.

farmer, who immigrated through Philadelphia in 1733, where he took the oath of allegiance to the English crown, and then settled in Lancaster County.³¹ Church records show that Peter Getz was born March 13, 1764 and was, therefore, only 12 years old when the Continental dollars were prepared. The accomplishments of Peter Getz up to his death on December 28, 1809, are well known.³² The probate records of Lancaster County, the *Lancaster Journal*, the records of the First Reformed Church, in Lancaster, and the 1790 United States census for Pennsylvania do not mention any person by the name of Getz with a first name beginning with E. No other die sinking or engraving work by any E. Getz has ever made its appearance.

The entire suggestion of the Chapman brothers is self-destructive due to a Freudian slip which they made in the sale of the Jackman collection on June 22, 1918. In the description of Lot 205 it stated "E.G.FECT. Initials of the maker, Peter Getz, of Lancaster, Pa."

An imaginary gravestone should be erected with the following epitaph:

Lest the reader forgets
The elusive E. Getz
With sincere regrets
A ghost-rating gets.

The author himself is responsible for confusing the issue to some degree. In "The 1776 Continental Currency Coinage" the suggestion was made of the possibility of Elbridge Gerry being EG, since he was appointed on February 17, 1776 as one of a committee of five to superintend the Treasury of the Continental Congress and on May 22, 1776 was requested to devise some method to obtain gold or silver. It is a privilege to withdraw one's own comment instead of having someone else correct it.

There was, however, another engraver in the Gallaudet family with the initials E.G., namely, Edward Gallaudet (1808-1847). He was a son of Peter Wallace Gallaudet and worked during the nineteenth century with John Cheney in Boston.

Mention should also be made of a silversmith by the name of Eliakim Garretson who died in Philadelphia in his 67th year on September 5, 1827. His birth therefore would be 1760 which would fit normally with his marriage to Lydia Windle of Chester, Pa., on November 27, 1783. Since he was only sixteen years of age in 1776 he would not have been selected to make the Continental dollar.³³ In addition his subsequent work did not include any engravings or cuts for illustrations or any die cutting.

Conclusion

A summary of the facts relating to the conclusion that Elisha Gallaudet cut the dies for the 1776 Continental currency coinage are:

1. In 1776 the only engraver known in America or Europe having the initials E.G. was Elisha Gallaudet (1730-1779).
2. He had brought about the arrest of a counterfeiter indicating his trustworthiness in Treasury matters.
3. He had engraved the cuts for paper money of the Colony of New York.
4. He had engraved the cuts for the paper money of the City of New York.
5. In the early part of 1776 he either had moved from New York to Freehold, N. J., or was about to move.
6. Some New York representatives to the Continental Congress must have known Elisha Gallaudet.
7. His nephew, Peter Wallace Gallaudet, was a well-connected Philadelphian, in 1776, and Elisha

31. The Getz family information was assembled from local records by C. H. Martin, late treasurer of the Lancaster County Historical Society and Elizabeth Kiefer, librarian.

32. Dickeson erroneously listed the date of birth as 1762 while Crosby gave the date as about 1768. Dickeson had the year of death correct while Crosby indicated it was 1804.

33. Data assembled by Historical Society of Delaware.

Gallaudet could have been contacted for the work by Peter.

8. Neither the Continental dollar nor Elisha Gallaudet's known work indicates artistic skill or training.

9. The use of parallel lines in the Continental dollar dies is also common in his earlier engravings.

10. He was inexperienced in die sinking as distinguished from engraving.

11. The dies for the 1776 Continental currency coinage were cut by an engraver rather than a die sinker.

12. A member of the Gallaudet family who was a historian told a presently living member of the family that Elisha Gallaudet prepared

the first United States coin.

Acknowledgement

Appreciation for assistance in assembling the facts for this article are given to The National Archives, Library of Congress, New-York Historical Society, New York Public Library, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Historical Society of Delaware, Lancaster County Historical Society, Missouri Historical Society, Mercantile Library of St. Louis, Gallaudet College, St. Louis Public Library, Library Company of Philadelphia, Robert Munro-Erwin, Beatrice H. Ferguson, Powrie V. Doctor, Maxine T. Boatner, C. H. Martin, Kenneth Scott, John M. Willem and many others.

Obituaries

WALDO BARRICKMAN CHRISTENSON, LM 246

Waldo Barrickman Christenson, 50, architect, 2020 E. Galer St., Seattle, Wash., died May 16 while playing golf. He was born in Leeds, N. D. and graduated from the University of Washington in 1932. Beginning his career as architect in Seattle in 1935, he had a part in the development of many civic and industrial structures, among them the City Light Building expansion, Central Public Library, and the University of Washington's Business Administration building now under construction. Mr. Christenson was a member of the Prospect Congregational Church, Seattle Chamber of Commerce, Municipal League, University Kiwanis Club, Phi Beta Kappa and Tau Sigma Delta. A fellow of the American Institution of Architects, he had served as president and treasurer of its Washington state chapter, and as past regional director. He was active in civic affairs, having been chairman of the architecture and real estate committee of the Seattle Civic Center Association. Mr. Christenson was a member of the Seattle Coin Club and Life Member No. 246 of the American Numismatic Association.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Eleanor H. Christenson; two sons, James H. and Charles W. Christenson; a daughter, Nancy E. Christenson; and a sister, Mrs. Patricia Ann Dahl. The family requests that any remembrances be in the form of contributions to the Prospect Congregational Church memorial fund, the Heart Fund or the University of Washington Architectural Foundation. — E. G. B.

JOSEPH L. MCKEE, A.N.A. NO. 27102

Joseph L. McKee, 61, 1440 Ordway St., Berkeley, Calif., died at his home April 23, 1959. A member of the Berkeley city council from 1943 to 1947, he was active in veterans affairs. He was past commander of the Campanile Post No. 402 of the American Legion and also past commander of the Legion's tenth district, and was an officer or member of several other veterans organizations. His memberships included the B. P. O. E., Rotary, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. He was